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Pathologist Differs on JFK Death 'More Than One Gunman'

PITTSBURGH (Pa.) — (AP) — A forensic pathologist who examined the records and materials of the autopsy performed on President Kennedy said yesterday that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald could not have acted alone.

Dr. Cyril Wecht, Allegheny County coroner, said at a news conference that a two-day examination of the autopsy materials at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., convinced him that it was "physically impossible" for only one gunman to have slain Kennedy.

Wecht's findings were in direct contradiction not only with the Warren Report conclusion that a single assassin was responsible for Kennedy's death but also with a report by Dr. George K. Lattimer, the first private physician to examine the X-rays.

'At Least 2'

Wecht said:

"The fact is that the physical evidence shows that not any one person could have been a shooter. There had to have been at least two people shooting."

Wecht claimed that the single-assassin finding of the lengthy Warren Report hinges on the theory that one bullet fired from a single gun wounded President Kennedy in the back seat of his limousine and also

wounded and passed through Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding in the front seat.

Lattimer made his report last January, about two months after the expiration of the five-year ban on making public the material.

Same Bullet Theory

At that time Lattimer, chairman of the department of urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, said there was no doubt in his mind that Kennedy was gunned down by a single as-

sailant.

He said the X-rays proved that the front and rear wounds in the slain President were caused by the same bullet which passed through Kennedy's body and then struck Connally.

Wecht disagreed:

"The magic bullet theory is the sine qua non of the Warren Report," he said. "It is absolutely untenable from a scientific standpoint."

"I was quite amazed at the pristine shape of the bullet," Wecht said. "When one examines the bullet and the various films, there can be little or no question that the bullet did not traverse the body of two men."

'Out of His Field'

Asked about the conflict between his report and Lattimer's, Wecht said the New York doctor "is a urologist and deals with kidneys. This is completely out of his field of expertise . . ."

He also said Lattimer had spent only three or four hours in the archives.

Wecht said Lattimer was chosen as the first private physician to examine the X-rays "because he had made himself into a pro-government buff on this . . . They sent Lattimer in there because they knew what he would say and what he would do."

Asked who "they," were, Wecht would say only:

"The people who are eager to see to it that nothing is done to reopen this matter."

Wecht said several "extremely relevant" items — including microscopic slides and Kennedy's brain, which he said was to have been preserved — were not made available to him.

"Looking at the X-rays," he said, "I discovered a dark brownish-black object inside the brain. Nobody ever mentioned this previously. Nobody ever described it."

He did not say if he thought the object was a bullet.